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SUBJECT NUMBER

USCIB: 5.4/14 Item 4 of the Agenda for the Sixteenth Meeting of USCIBEC held on 25 June 1954.

SUBJECT: Annual Report of the Executive Secretary, USCIB.
 (USCIB 5.4/12)

The CHAIRMAN briefly reviewed the background of this item, explaining that he had written some interpretations of the job of the Executive Secretary which some of the members might find objectionable. He invited criticism of the report and observed that it is high time he should be advised to mend his ways should the philosophies expressed in the report not be in complete accord with those of the Committee or the Board.

MR. POLYZOIDES moved that the report and its enclosures be accepted provided the minutes carried a line to express the Committee's gratitude for the splendid work the Executive Secretary has done. Had it not been for the drive and effort on the part of the Executive Secretary, he continued, many of the complicated items considered would not have been accomplished during the past year.

[redacted] seconded the motion.

OGA

The CHAIRMAN expressed his gratitude for the comments. Then turning to the report, he invited the members' attention to his recommendations on the over-all problem of security, stating that from his study of the reports of violations, he felt that the Director, NSA would have to initiate some drastic action that could be very distasteful to the military elements under his operational control. He continued by reading some general figures that reflected 60 compromises for the full year, as of 1 May 1954. Half were, he noted, transmissions in the clear. After explaining in some detail the nature of the compromises, he stressed the need for immediate and aggressive action to eliminate this type of leakage. In conclusion, the Chairman stated that he realized his remarks were rather strong but he did wish to emphasize to the maximum possible degree the fact that the problem of preventing plain language transmissions deserves a great deal of attention. He then invited comments.

The MEMBERS discussed the recommendation contained in Section II, Paragraph C1 of the Annual Report. It developed that the National Security Agency had interpreted USCIB 13.5/42 of 8 March 1954 as establishing the minimum standards required by USCIB Directive No. 9, Revised. A majority of the other members indicated that they have been operating under the impression that USCIB 13.5/42 does not constitute minimum standards required by Section III, Paragraph 1 of CIBD No. 9, Revised and they had therefore been awaiting distribution of such minimum standards. To

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eliminate this misunderstanding the CHAIRMAN suggested and the Members agreed to notify the Executive Secretary, USCIB by Friday, 2 July 1954 of acceptance (or non-acceptance, with appropriate recommendations) of USCIB 13.5/42 dated 8 March 1954, as the minimum standards governing communications security systems, procedures, practices and training programs to be followed by all USCIB member organizations in the transmission of COMINT by electrical means.

CAPTAIN AGNEW, making reference to Section II, Paragraph C3 of the report of the Executive Secretary, then stated that NSA would prefer to have the 16 August 1954 date changed so that LSIB could be queried with regard to its ability to fully implement Appendix "B" by that date.

Following a brief discussion of the planning behind the recommendation of the 16 August 1954 target date plus the consensus of the members that categorization of COMINT should be expedited, it was agreed that the target date of 16 August 1954 should be accepted.

OGA

[] continued the discussion by pointing out that since Paragraph 1b of Part II of the Intelligence Committee report had been written, new facts had intervened which changed the situation outlined therein. A revised statement, he added, would be submitted at a later date.

MR. CORRY of NSA informed the Members that the status report recommended in Paragraph C2 of Section II of the report of the Executive Secretary is being prepared and would be submitted in time for USCIB consideration at its September meeting.

In response to a statement by the NSA Member that his Agency's functions are only supervisory and that the Services are responsible for initiating action, if necessary, to improve the situation, the CHAIRMAN stated that his understanding and the basis of his action has been that the Director, National Security Agency is responsible for those elements under his operational or technical control. He read Paragraphs 2e(4) and 2g of NSCID No. 9 adding that 58 out of the 60 compromises under discussion had occurred in units under the operational or technical control of NSA.

The CHAIRMAN expressed his hope that no one felt that an effort had been made at this time to victimize anybody, as such is not the case. In the future prosecution of this program to reduce security compromises, he continued, it might well be necessary to discipline some commanding officers and, if so, it must be done. The discussion concluded with acceptance of the report of the Executive Secretary.

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DECISION: (25 June 1954) USCIBEC agreed to recommend approval of the report contained in USCIB 5.4/12 of 15 June 1954.

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